



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

---

**Contact: Kena Rice**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**

1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**

444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**

500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas  
66101

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 19, 2003

### OZAWKIE, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **William Ryan Owings**, 22, Ozawkie, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Melgren said that Owings admitted at his plea that on May 12, 2002, he was stopped by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for a traffic violation on U.S. 75 Highway in Jackson County, Kansas. Owings further admitted that following the stop he was arrested by the officer on an outstanding warrant and during a search of his vehicle the officer found a loaded pistol in the trunk. Owings admitted that he was previously convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a felony, on April 24, 2001, in Jefferson County, Kansas.

Owings faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for November 21, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this prosecution.